

Evaluating Federal Research Programs: Research and the Government Performance and Results Act

**Committee on Science, Engineering,
and Public Policy**

**National Academy of Sciences-
National Academy of Engineering-
Institute of Medicine**

Who is COSEPUP?

- **COSEPUP is a joint committee of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine**
- **COSEPUP Members are senior scientists and engineers who have worked in industry, government, and universities.**

COSEPUP Membership

- Phillip Griffiths, Chair
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- Marye Anne Fox
- Ralph Gomory
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- Philip Majerus
- June Osborn
- Kenneth Shine
- Morris Tanenbaum
- William Julius Wilson
- William Wulf

Charge to Committee

- **Identify and Analyze the Most Effective Ways to Assess the Results of Research Consulting with Federal Agencies, Oversight Entities, Researchers, etc.**
- **Help the Federal Government Determine How Agencies can Better Incorporate Research Activities into their GPRA Plans**

Workshops

- Industry
- Strategic & Performance Plans
- Assessment Methodology

Two Viewpoints in Workshops

- Possible to measure research, including basic research, annually & provide quantitative outcomes of both basic & applied research
- Given long-range nature of basic research, no sensible way to respond to GPRA

COSEPUP Position

- **Useful outcomes of basic research cannot be measured directly on an annual basis because inherently too unpredictable**
- **However, meaningful measures of performance of basic research are possible--quality, relevance, and leadership are good predictors of eventual usefulness and can be reported regularly**

Expert Review

- **Quality-- Peer Review of Programs by Experts in Field**
- **Relevance-- Relevance of Research to Agency Mission by Potential Users & Experts in Related Fields**
- **Leadership--International Benchmarking by International and National Experts**

Human Resources

- **Include goal of maintaining adequate human resources in fields critical to their missions in strategic & performance plans**
- **Make Human Resources part of Program Evaluation**

Coordination

- **Establish formal process to identify and coordinate areas of research supported by multiple agencies**
- **Identify lead agency for each field that would be responsible for assuring coordination occurs**

Science and Engineering Community

- Should play an important role in GPRA implementation
- Become familiar with Agency Strategic & Performance Plans

Conclusion

- GPRA provides an opportunity to ensure effective use of nation's resources
- Articulates to policymakers and public the rationale for and results of research

Next Steps

- **Meet with Federal Agency Research Leadership**
- **Workshops**
- **Suggestions?**

For More Information

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